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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, I think we've said it all. I'm not going to take more time. Again, this amendment, just so that you recall again, doesn't raise any tax rates either on the fuel tax or on the corn checkoff but merely extends those two taxes out at the very end of the credit payment period in the years '09 and '10 and the years '10-11 and '11-12. And it makes the fund whole and we will not have dug ourselves in another spade deeper. And with that, I'd yield the remainder of my time to Senator Chambers, who hasn't had an opportunity to speak on this issue. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Chambers, you have just over nine minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, Mr. President, I intend not to take anywhere near that amount of time. I just want to express my support for what Senator Beutler is doing. I believe that it is fair. It is reasonable. And I hope that we can get the 25 votes necessary to add this amendment. If this amendment is added, it will sweeten some dispositions relative to the ultimate fate of LB 1065. If 25 people voted to reconsider and there had been 24 to adopt this amendment, should it be rejected, 33 might be a high number. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. I am going to raise the call. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Once again I rise in opposition to this. I think that the farmers have stepped up enough. We have lessened the public commitment to this program. Over...the LB 536, initial bill, had \$7 million in it and we've cut that back to \$1.5 million. We continually here at the last hour make someone who is not here to squeal pay the bill. We have farmers having to put more money in this, which is a general benefit to the state, as I said before. This program does benefit agriculture but it also benefits our state budget. As we build these plants and they perform over the next 40 years, it benefits the communities that these plants are in. I think that there should be a public and